

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jeremiah writes a prayer letter

BY JOE SARNICOLA

My name is Jeremiah. Some people call me a prophet of God. I was born in Anathoth, a village near Jerusalem. The first time I knew God had something special planned for me was when Josiah was king of Judah. This is what the Lord said to me. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." How could someone my age serve God? And I did not feel worthy of his blessing, so I said, "Lord God, I know not how to speak; I am too young." But God told me I was not too young to serve him. He said, "To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you. I will place my words in your mouth." Who was I to argue with God? He said he had called me before I was born, and he said he would not only give me the words to speak, but he would always protect me. It hasn't always been easy. Sometimes I get nervous, sometimes the people do not want to listen to the words I say from God. And sometimes I become discouraged about what God wants me to do. I was so upset one time, I couldn't even talk to God. So I wrote down my

feelings, as if I were writing God a prayer letter. Let me read it to you. "O Lord, you were too strong for me and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me. Violence and outrage is my message. I try not speak the name of the Lord, but it becomes like fire burning in my heart." It seemed like I could no stop writing and praying and crying that day. I felt that the people who did not want to hear God's message would rejoice if I gave up. But I didn't give up. The Lord heard my prayer and when I felt his love engulf me, I was able to finish my letter with these words. "The Lord is with me, like a mighty champion. My persecutors will not triumph. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of

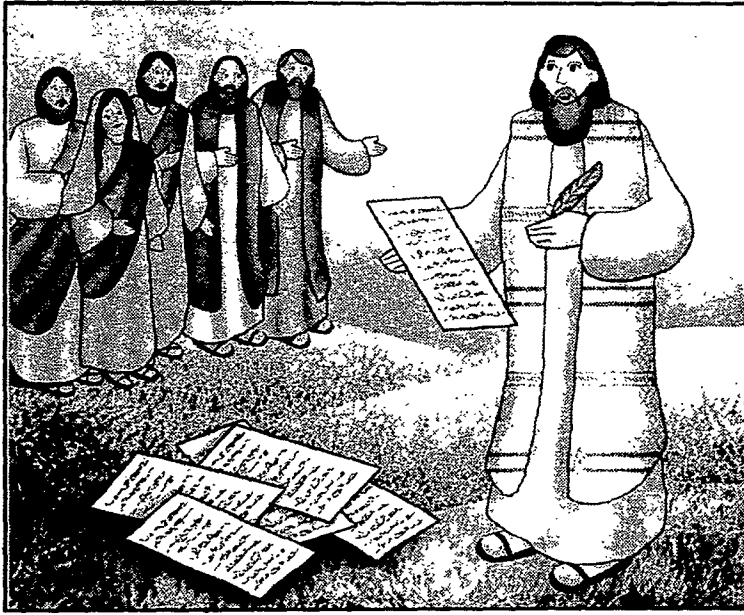


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

the poor from the power of the wicked."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Jeremiah 1, 20

## Q&A

1. What did Jeremiah say when God called him?
2. How did Jeremiah feel after he prayed?

## Bible Trivia

What short book follows the Book of Jeremiah in the Bible?

Send answer to: *Catholic Courier* Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by Aug. 29, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Amanda DiPonzio, a fourth-grader at Holy Cross School, Rochester. In response to "Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding. What did he do?" she responded, "Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding at Cana by turning the water into wine."

## Bible Accent

The Bible is God's word to us. But we have had to translate the Bible from its original languages into English for Americans to understand. Not so long ago, there were only two major English translations of the Bible. The King James translation received its name from England's King James I, who authorized its publication. That was often referred to as "the Protestant Bible." Since most Catholics used the Douay-Rheims translation, it was called "the Catholic Bible." Over the past 40 years, many newer translations of the Bible have been published in an attempt to make the older translations reflect current English speech. Although the King James version is still very popular, it is joined by the Revised Standard Version and the New International Version. Many Catholics read the New American Bible, which is the translation we hear in the readings at Mass. Spend some time every day reading your Bible.

## St. Aidan

St. Aidan was born in Ireland about 1,300 years ago. Little is known about him before he became a monk. He developed a friendship with King Oswald, and distributed the donations the king and other rich men gave him to poor people. Most of Aidan's religious work took place on the Isle of Lindisfarne, now generally called Holy Isle, where he was bishop. There he established a monastery, and he worked diligently to preach Christianity to the pagans of the region. He raised 12 English boys at the monastery. They took care of the grounds and assisted him in caring for other children and slaves. Aidan used many of the contributions he received to buy slaves their freedom. He died in a castle he used as a mission center. We honor him on August 31.

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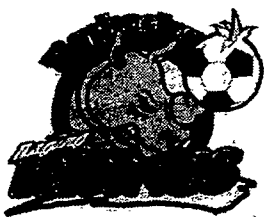
## Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the name of the food mentioned in the following Bible verses. Answers on page 20.

MILK FISH APPLES HERBS  
BREAD HONEY MELON

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in silver (Proverbs 25:11)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ patch (Isaiah 1:8)
3. We remember the \_\_\_\_\_ (Numbers 11:5)
4. a land flowing with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 3:8)
5. ripening, aromatic \_\_\_\_\_ (Song of Songs 5:13)
6. make \_\_\_\_\_ out of them (Ezekiel 4:9)

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